

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-01 INR-07 IO-13
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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2305

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0425

FROM US MBFR REPRESENTATIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR: AD HOC GROUP APPROVED PRESS GUIDANCE

AT ITS JULY 18 MEETING, THE AD HOC GROUP APPROVED FOR
ITS OWN USE WITH THE LOCAL PRESS ON AN IF ASKED BASIS
THE FOLLOWING AGREED CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE DEALING
RESPECTIVELY WITH THE NEW WESTERN DATA DISAGGREGATION
PROPOSAL AND THE RECENT DISCUSSION OF MBFR BETWEEN
PRESIDENT CARTER AND CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT:

BEGIN TEXT: 1. ON JULY 15, REUTER'S CORRESPONDENT IN
VIENNA FILED STORY STATING THAT WEST HAD PUT FORWARD
A NEW DATA PROPOSAL TO THE EAST IN JULY 15 INFORMAL
SESSION. THE AD HOC GROUP HAS AGREED TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING
LINE IN THE EVENT OF PRESS INQUIRIES.

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Q. WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE DATA DISCUSSION AND
WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THE NEW WESTERN PROPOSAL? DOES
IT CONCERN DISAGGREGATION AS REPORTED IN THE PRESS?
DOES IT INVOLVE NATIONAL FIGURES?

A. WE CAN CONFIRM THAT THE WEST HAD MADE A PROPOSAL
CONCERNING THE FUTURE CONDUCT OF THE DATA DISCUSSION.

THE PRINCIPLE OF CONFIDENTIALITY MAKES IT INAPPROPRIATE
TO GIVE ANY FURTHER DETAILS AT THIS POINT.

Q. PRESS REPRESENTATIVES ASK WHAT THE EASTERN REACTION
TO THE WESTERN DATA PROPOSAL HAS BEEN.

A. THEY HAVE TOLD US THAT THEY WOULD GIVE US THEIR
REACTION AT A LATER TIME.

2. CAPITALS MAY WISH TO FOLLOW SIMILAR LINE IN DEALING
WITH POSSIBLE PRESS QUESTIONS ON THIS ISSUE. THE EAST
HAS NOT YET RESPONDED TO THE WEST'S NEW PROPOSAL AND MAY
NOT DO SO FOR SOME TIME. IT IS IMPORTANT TO AVOID A
SITUATION WHERE DETAILS OF THE WESTERN PROPOSAL BECOME
PUBLIC AND THE EAST FEELS COMPELLED AS A CONSEQUENCE TO
TAKE A PUBLIC POSITION EMPHASIZING THAT ITS PROPOSAL TO
TABLE NATIONAL DATA IS A BETTER ONE. END TEXT

BEGIN TEXT 1. REGARDING THE RECENT DISCUSSION OF THE
MBFR NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND CHANCELLOR
SCHMIDT, ALL THE NATO GOVERNMENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE
MBFR NEGOTIATIONS CONSIDER THESE NEGOTIATIONS
IMPORTANT AND ARE INTERESTED IN SEEING THEM PROGRESS.
THEREFORE, IT IS NATURAL THAT THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS
ARE DISCUSSED WHEN TOP POLITICAL LEADERS OF NATO
COUNTRIES MEET.
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2. THE WESTERN POSITION IN THESE TALKS IS A UNIFIED
ONE AGREED ON BY ALL THE PARTICIPATING ALLIES.

3. ANY IDEAS ON HOW TO MAKE PROGRESS WILL NATURALLY
BE INTRODUCED INTO THE ALLIANCE CONSULTATION PROCESS.

4. ALLIANCE CONSULTATIONS ON THE SUBSTANCE AND ALSO ON
THE TIMING OF POSSIBLE STEPS WILL HAVE TO TAKE INTO
ACCOUNT
THE WILLINGNESS OF THE EAST TO MAKE MODIFICATIONS
IN ITS OWN REDUCTION APPROACH. THEY WILL ALSO HAVE TO
TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE DEGREE OF PROGRESS IN THE CURRENT
DATA DISCUSSIONS. END TEXTRESOR

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